

HOOD CANAL BRIDGE NEWS



West-Half Retrofit and East-Half Replacement Project

October 2004

Summer construction battens down the hatches

October is a transitional month for construction on the Hood Canal Bridge as crews prepare for the winter season and wrap up summer projects. Major construction on the floating section of the bridge will halt for the winter months starting in October.

Work will continue in the approach sections and areas adjacent to the bridge and at the Port Angeles graving dock site.

No disruption or closures of the bridge for construction are scheduled during the winter months. The speed limit on the bridge will remain at 40 mph. Motorists are advised to use caution during the winter months as bridge decks ice up more rapidly than pavement.

'You wouldn't do preventative maintenance on your house in the winter; it's just not a good time to do it.'

- Ron Lewis,
Hood Canal Bridge
project manager

It is WSDOT policy that in the winter months no construction be performed on floating bridges in order to protect the structural integrity of the bridge.

"You wouldn't do preventative maintenance on your house in the winter; it's just not a good time to do it," said Ron Lewis, Hood Canal Bridge project manager.

Motorists crossing the bridge can look forward to the traveling lanes being restored to the original 12-foot width this winter. Kiewit-General crews will remove the temporary barriers that were installed to create a safe work area and protect vehicles crossing the bridge during the widening on the bridge's southern edge.

In May the lanes will be again reduced to the 11-foot width as work widening the north-



Kiewit-General is finishing forming and pouring a new bridge rail along the southern edge of the bridge's west half. Work will move off the bridge during the winter months.

Winter driving tips

- Be aware that bridge decks may be slippery, even when the rest of the pavement is in good condition. Bridge decks ice up sooner than the adjacent pavement.
- Don't get overconfident in 4x4 vehicles. Four-wheel drive vehicles may help you get going quicker but won't help you stop any faster.
- Pay attention and don't try to out-drive the conditions. The posted speed limits are for dry pavement. The speed limit on the Hood Canal Bridge is 40 mph.
- Don't use your cruise control in wintry conditions. Even roads that appear clear can have slippery spots and the short touch of your brakes to deactivate the cruise control feature can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.

ern length begins. Permits are still required for vehicles carrying wide loads and are available through the Port Orchard Maintenance office, (360) 874-3050.

In October crews are scheduled to begin building foundations for the approach spans. On the east (Kitsap County side) approach to the bridge, crews will finish building north and south side temporary trestles, structures that allows crews to build the new approach spans alongside the bridge.

Pedestrians are not allowed on the bridge during construction. Cyclists are advised to use the bus to cross the bridge or, if necessary, ride with traffic. All work done in the water has to be completed by Jan. 15 to comply with the Endangered Species Act regulations regarding migrating fish.

Crews cannot continue to work in the waters in the Hood Canal until after the fish window ends on July 15.



Bridge terms to help know the project

The following key words are used to explain parts of the Hood Canal Bridge project:

- **Superstructure** - The portion of the Hood Canal Bridge that is built above the crossbeams. The superstructure includes the girders and bridge deck.
- **Trestle** - A movable frame or support similar to scaffolding. A trestle is a kind of framework of strong posts or piles, and crossbeams, for supporting a bridge. The Hood Canal Bridge project will build a temporary trestle at the east end upon which a new approach span will be constructed.
- **Transition span** - The steel span that connects the bridge founded on land with the portion founded on water. The transition spans literally transition the roadway from land onto the floating section. The transition spans at both bridge ends will be replaced with wider sections during the bridge project.
- **Approach span** - Portion of the bridge founded on land. The approach spans will be replaced during the bridge project.
- **Crossbeam** - A horizontal or transverse beam. The Hood Canal Bridge crossbeams are structural beams resting on two supports. Girders are set upon the crossbeams. The bridge deck is then built upon the girders.

Graving dock news

Painstaking archaeology work began a new mechanical phase at the Port Angeles graving dock site.

Crews recently installed a mechanical screening system that will assist archaeologists in sorting through the thousands of yards of material possibly containing Native American artifacts.

Meanwhile, the project contractor, Kiewit-General of Poulsbo, continues to work around the active archaeology areas remaining at the site.

A coffer dam was built at the harbor's edge and sections of a concrete floor (left) was poured in the upper graving dock area.

The contractor also paved a section of the site between the graving dock and Marine Drive to help manage stormwater runoff and water quality issues.

Additional piling for the graving dock will be driven in October.

Project progress

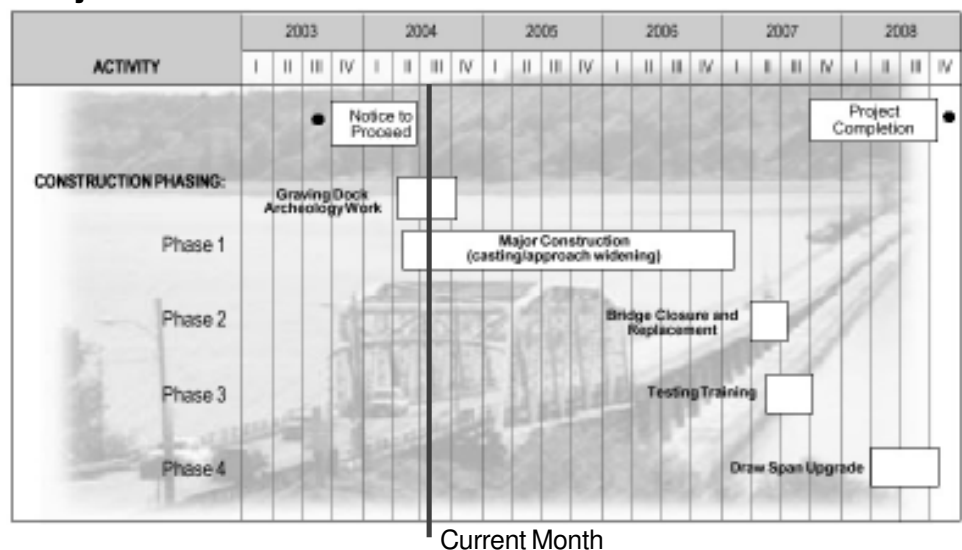
There are several opportunities on-line at www.hoodcanalbridge.com to keep current on the project's budget and milestones.

Project news is regularly updated in an easy-to-find "update" box. Under project news, visitors can view the monthly project status report that details project expenditures, amount of project completed, upcoming project work and the overall project schedule.

Presentations available

Want a presentation for your club or organization? Contact HCB communication team at (360) 357-2789, or via e-mail: orfeedback@wsdot.wa.gov.

Project Schedule



Hood Canal Bridge News

is prepared monthly by the WSDOT as a service to those interested in the Hood Canal Bridge retrofit and replacement project.

Traffic information Hood Canal Bridge:
1-800-419-9085.

Weather and roadway conditions:
www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic.

If you have any comments on ***Hood Canal Bridge News*** or would like more information contact Lloyd Brown, communication manager, at (360) 357-2789 or via E-mail: brownl@wsdot.wa.gov.